Hastings, Charles X , Medical Health Officer, Toronto 3 Nov. 1919 - June 1920

(077)

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CITY HALL

GEO. G. NASMITH, C.M.G., PH.D.
DIRECTOR OF LABORATORIES

MARCHANT B. WHYTE, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.,
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICE

ROBERT E. MILLS, M.A.,
DIRECTOR OF RECORDS, STATISTICS, & SOCIAL SERVICE

EUNICE H. DYKE, R.N.,
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

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CHIEF, DIVISION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES & QUARANTINE

ALAN BROWN, M.B.,
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF CHILD HYGIENE

HENRY A. ROWLAND,
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CHIEF, DIVISION OF MEAT INSPECTION

J. A. BOTHWELL, D.D.S.,
SUPERVISOR, DENTAL SERVICE

CHARLES J. HASTINGS, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

SUBJECT

ATTENTION OF

TORONTO, November 5, 1919.

Sir Robert A. Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Sir,

Inasmuch as we have a number of cases of smallpox in the City and there is danger of our having a more or less severe epidemic of this disease, I hereby request that you require a certificate of vaccination from all pupils attending your school that have not been vaccinated within the past seven years, or have not had smallpox.

This request is sent you in pursuance of my duties under Section 13, Sub-section 1, of the Vaccination Act, 2 George V, Chapter 59, which reads as follows;

"Where it is deemed necessary by the Medical "Officer of Health of any municipality, owing "to the prevalence, or threatened prevalence of "smallpox, he may, with the approval of the "Local Board of Health, require certificates "of successful vaccination or of unsusceptibil- "ity on re-vaccination, within seven years, of "all pupils or students of a Public, Separate, "Continuation or High School or Collegiate "Institute, and all Colleges or Universities "or any other public or private institution "of learning, within the municipality, to be "presented to the proper authorities of the "Institution, and no pupil or student refusing "to produce such certificate on demand shall be "admitted to further attendance in the institut- "ion until a certificate is furnished.

"Sub-section (2) - Any principal, teacher, super- "intendent or officer of any such institution who

"commits or is a party to any contravention
"of Sub-section 1, shall incur a penalty not
"exceeding $20.00."

While the present outbreak is very mild in character, yet there is every probability that if this continues unchecked and that the virus consequently becomes transferred rapidly from one person to another, that with every transfer it will gain virulence and possibly result in a number of very virulent cases.

Respectfully yours,

Chas. J. Hastings

Medical Officer of Health.

CJH/AD.

November 6th, 1919

Dr. Hastings,
Medical Health Officer,
City Hall, Toronto.

Dear Dr. Hastings:

I have communicated with the various Faculties of the University with regard to your request that all students who have not been vaccinated in the past seven years should be vaccinated now. Dr. J. E. Fitzgerald of the Department of Hygiene is undertaking the work and your request will be complied with within the next few days.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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ATTENTION OF

TORONTO, November 13, 1919

Sir R. Falconer,
University of Toronto
Toronto

Dear Sir :

At a special meeting of the Local Board of Health called in connection with the present outbreak of smallpox, it was decided that there would be a further extension of time, of eight days, given to all pupils, from Monday, November 17th, in which to apply a certificate of vaccination within the past seven years, or show a satisfactory vaccination scar, this to be determined by the family physician, school doctor, physician at Public Clinic or school nurse, in default of which they are to be excluded from attendance at school. Provided, however, that in the event of any pupil furnishing a certificate from their family physician, providing he belongs to the regular school of medicine, stating that the child is not in a proper physical condition to be vaccinated and that in his judgment it would be prejudicial to the health of the child if vaccination is done at the present time, such child need not be vaccinated at present and may continue on at school.

Respectfully yours,

Chas. J. Hastings

Medical Officer of Health.

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ATTENTION OF

November 22, 1919.

TORONTO,

To the Principal,

Dear Sir,

Inasmuch as there appears to be some misunderstanding amongst the principals as to whose responsibility it is to exclude pupils from school, under the Vaccination Act, I beg to again submit the following extract from the Act, which makes perfectly clear where the responsibility belongs.

As you are a ware, the following sections of the act come into force on Wednesday, November 26th, 1919.

Chapter 219, R.S.O. 1914, Section 13.

"(1) Where it is deemed necessary by the Medical Officer of Health of any municipality, owing to the presence or threatened presence of smallpox, he may, with the approval of the Local Board of Health, require certificates of successful vaccination or of insusceptibility on re-vaccination within seven years, of all pupils or students of a public, separate, continuation or High School or Collegiate Institute, and of a College or University, or of any other Public or Private Institution of learning within the municipality, to be presented to the proper authorities of the institution and no pupil or student refusing to produce such certificate on demand shall be admitted to further attendance in the Institution until the certificate is furnished.

(2) Any principal, teacher, superintendent or officer of any such institution who commits or is party or privy to any contravention of sub-section 1 shall incur a penalty not exceeding $20.00. 2 Geo.V. c. 59, s. 13.

[illegible] therefore, to you that it is the function of the school authorities under the Act, to receive the certificates, and exclude such children as fail to present such certificates.

This Department is anxious to do all it can in the matter and has taken such steps as seemed necessary to facilitate obtaining the required Certificates. Free vaccination centres have been established in different places and free vaccination has been conducted in the schools. For those children who previously have been successfully vaccinated, the school physicians and nurses stand ready to issue certificates in order that the children need not be put to the expense of obtaining certificates from their private physicians. Children recently vaccinated by private physicians will obtain certificates from their own physicians.

You will observe that the law requires a certificate of successful vaccination or of insusceptibility to vaccination. However, children who furnish a certificate showing that they have been recently vaccinated are allowed a period of 30 days from the time of vaccination in which to produce a certificate of successful vaccination. During this period they need not be excluded from school.

Children who show evidence of previous successful vaccination but not within seven years, and who have been recently re-vaccinated unsuccessfully will be assumed to be insusceptible to re-vaccination and will be granted a certificate admitting them to school.

A certificate from the family physician, stating that a child is not in a fit and proper state to be successfully vaccinated shall be sufficient authority to allow of the admission of the child to school.

Trusting that I have made myself clear to you and assuring you of our fullest co-operation,

I am,

Sincerely yours,

Chas. J. Hastings

Medical Officer of Health.

CJH/AD.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

SUBJECT

ATTENTION OF

TORONTO, ~~December 4, 1919.~~

Dear Sir,

Inasmuch as the ten days extension of the time for the enforcement of the requirements of the Vaccination Act, granted by the Local Board of Health at its meeting held on November 26th, expires Saturday, December 6th, and the said Board at its meeting held on December 4th, 1919, having declined to grant a further extension of time in this connection, you are hereby authorized to enforce the requirements of the aforesaid Act re excluding of pupils from school on Monday, December 8th, as set forth under Chapter 219, R.S.O. 1914, Section 13, which reads as follows;

"(1) Where it is deemed necessary by the Medical Officer of Health of any municipality, owing to the presence or threatened presence of smallpox, he may, with the approval of the Local Board of Health, require certificates of successful vaccination or of insusceptibility on re-vaccination within seven years, of all pupils or students of a public, separate, continuation or High School or Collegiate Institute, and of a College or University, or of any other Public or Private Institution of learning within the municipality, to be presented to the proper authorities of the institution and no pupil or student refusing to produce such certificate on demand shall be admitted to further attendance in the Institution until the certificate is furnished.

(2) Any principal, teacher, superintendent or officer of any such institution who commits or is party or privy to any contravention of subsection 1 shall incur a penalty not exceeding $20.00. 2 Geo. V. c. 59 s.13.

Sincerely yours,

Chas. J. Hastings

Medical Officer of Health.

CJH/AD.

CHAS. J. HASTINGS, M.D.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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June 3, 1920.

My dear Sir Robert,

When the Committee met, in your absence, re Extension Course for Public Health Nurses, the question of a Director was raised. I suggested that this might well be left in the hands of Miss Gunn and her colleagues in the Nursing profession to suggest names. However, on investigation, I find that Miss Gunn herself is the best equipped to launch this undertaking, and if an efficient substitute can be obtained for the General Hospital, I cannot but feel that you would be well advised in considering seriously the possibility of obtaining Miss Gunn.

On presenting this problem to the Senate, and in conversation with some members since, I have been amazed beyond measure at the lack of knowledge of the advancement of Public Health Nursing in the City of Toronto, particularly that lamentable lack of knowledge amongst those from whom one would expect more. This, however, is probably well explained in the experience that the Hon. Justice Hodgins had when acting as Royal Commission for the Ontario Government in enquiring into the various cults and also the various nursing organizations of Toronto and the profession in Ontario generally. Justice Hodgins told us at the Parliament Buildings that when he went to New York and interviewed Professor Winslow of Yale and Commissioner Emmerson of New York City, and also Miss Crandall, and told them his mission, they advised him to return to Toronto and go to the Department of Health, inasmuch as this Department was practically setting the pace for the Continent on Public Health Nursing, and all eyes were directed to our organization.

I trust you will not consider that this is any matter of handing bouquets to the Department of Health, but rather as Justice Hodgins

CHAS. J. HASTINGS, M.D.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

expressed it, demonstrating the fact that one very often requires to go away from home to ascertain what is being done in their own home. I merely interject this to show that Toronto has facilities for field work for nurses taking this course superior to any other city on the Continent.

Trusting that you will pardon this unasked for advice, inasmuch as it is coming from one who, second only to yourself, is most intensely interested in the future of Public Health Nursing,

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Chas. J. Hastings.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sir Robt. Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Torontp.

CJH/AD.

June 4th, 1920

Dr. C. J. Hastings,
City Hall,
Toronto.

Dear Dr. Hastings:

At a meeting of the Committee to go over the details of the proposed course for graduate nurses when the discussion was taking place with regard to the possible director Miss Gunn's name was mentioned as being very suitable. I suppose that it would be unfair to take her from the General Hospital unless they were in a position to supply an equally competent head, especially at this time when it is so necessary to have efficiency in order to keep down expenses.

I am glad to have your statement with regard to the Public Health Nursing in Toronto. We all recognise that the Public Health of Toronto is handled in a very efficient and modern way.

With kind regards, I am,
Yours sincerely,

President.